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(ANSAmед) - MADRID, NOVEMBER 23 - Cooperation and twinning between European, Palestinian and Israeli cities and development of city diplomacy aimed at promoting peace and helping the fight against poverty are among the main points in the final declaration to be adopted at the closing of the Second European Conference of Local Authorities for Peace in the Middle East in Cordoba. The initiative is promoted by the European network of Local Authorities for Peace in the Middle East, which includes 622 municipalities, provinces and regions. The document to be signed at the Cordoba conference, which is attended by representatives of seven Israeli and 11 Palestinian municipalities as well as 140 local authorities from Spain, Italy, Belgium, France, Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland and Malta, will be presented at the Euro-Mediterranean Summit of heads of state and government in Barcelona on November 27 and 28. Opening the works of the conference on Tuesday, Jose Antonio Abanil, councilor for international cooperation and development at the Cordoba Province, recalled that the conference is aimed at strengthen the city diplomacy and opening a dialogue that will overcome the conflict which exploded with the four wars between Arabs and Israelis in the last 50 years. Abanil offered for Cordoba - a crossroad of Christian, Arab and Jewish cultures - to become an international meeting place for the pursuit of peace in the Middle East. Supported by the Spanish Foreign Ministry and organised by the Province of Cordoba, Andalusians Municipalities Fund for International Solidarity, Fons Catala de Cooperacio al Desenvolupament and the Spanish Confederation of Cooperation and Solidarity Funds, the conference will be closed on Thursday by Spanish foreign minister Miguel Angel Moratinos. According to diplomatic sources, the international forum has the same objectives as the "Alliance of Civilizations" proposed to the UN by Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.(ANSAmед). RED-KSY

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